GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1846
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
STRENGTHENING OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme formulated by the Government to provide justice to the people of the country at cheaper cost, easily and soon;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to strengthen the judicial system of the country along with the outcome thereof;

(c) the present position of the `fast-track-courts` and `Lok Adalats` in the country;

(d) whether sufficient funds have been provided and judicial staff appointed to serve the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) The institution of Lok Adalats which is very popular in providing for expeditious system of administration of justice has been given a statutory status by enacting the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The provision of statutory support to Lok Adalats has helped in taking justice to the door-steps of the poor and needy and made justice quicker and less expensive.

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen the judicial system of the country. These include simplification of rules and procedure on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, and the two proposed legislations, namely, the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994, inter alia, contain provisions for cutting short the delays and for fixing a definite time frame at various stages of civil and criminal proceedings. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of judges in the High Court.The last such communication was sent in February, 2001. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

(c) As per available information, 862 fast-track courts have been set up/notified, out of which 542 courts have started functioning. As many as 57,234 cases have been transferred to these courts so far, of which 16,066 cases have been disposed of. In addition, Lok Adalats are being successfully organized across the country.

(d) & (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice since 1993-94. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential quarters for judges/judicial officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts.From 1993-94 to 2000-2001 an amount of Rs.404.15 crores has been released to various States/UTs as Central share under this scheme. Against this Rs.834 crore has been spent by various States/UTs upto 2000-2001. Further, an amount of Rs.168.02 crores has been released for setting up fast-track courts. Also, sufficient funds have been provided by the Government for organizing Lok Adalats.